



4.5 COMMUNITY USES

Community uses are important to the social fabric. Through a variety of programs they meet many of society's needs: education, health, religion, and culture. Their contribution to the well being of the community includes the economic benefits of employment, the open-space feature of large land holdings, and the provision of specialized social services. All of the community uses in the municipality, large and small, contribute a sense of permanence and stability to the community.

4.5.1 Civic Centre

The City recognizes that providing cultural and recreation facilities within the Town Centre are essential to creating a complete community. Placing these facilities close together within the Civic Centre will cultivate a dynamic relationship between the different facilities and the users that will enliven the city centre and help to support surrounding businesses.

The Civic Centre today consists of the Municipal Hall, the Recreation Centre (which includes a senior's lounge, youth centre and community policing office), a library, a skate board park and a park with a cenotaph. An elementary school is located next to the Civic Centre, sharing the park and some of the parking lot with the other facilities.

The following two projects will be constructed to serve the Civic Centre within the next several years:

Seniors' Recreation Pavilion - Community seniors' facilities are planned for the first floor of the future seniors' housing project west of the municipal hall. The 9,530 square foot pavilion consists of a lounge, reception room, meeting room and a couple of multi-purpose rooms. The building will be constructed by a private developer, but the community seniors' facility will be programmed and managed by Ridge Meadows Parks and Leisure Services, and will be open to all seniors.



Parking - The City is considering a partnership with the developers of the mixed use development at Harris and Ford Road to build 150 parking stalls in an underground structure to be shared between the municipality and the development at Harris and Ford Roads. This structure would require the relocation of the skateboard park.

The municipality is considering a number of facilities for and improvements to the Civic Centre for the future, including:

Civic Square - the City has reserved two acres south and west of the municipal hall for a civic square, an area to be used for gatherings, civic events, celebrations and informal recreation. The Cenotaph attracts people daily and draws large crowds on Remembrance Day. A committee on the Cenotaph was formed to discuss improvements to the site, and their recommendations included enhancing the green park area and cenotaph site.

Library Expansion- The library, in cooperation with the Municipality, is in the planning stages to expand and upgrade the library in order to accommodate the growing population.

Other improvements to the civic square include reconfiguring the driveway and parking lots and relocating the school playground to provide more public space. An aquatic centre is also being contemplated, subject to the availability of funding.

Policies

- a) Support improvements to the Civic Centre that increase its attractiveness, and enhance its accessibility, usefulness, and security as a venue for public uses and events;
- b) Continue to seek and support public-private partnerships to provide community services and amenities;
- c) Reinforce the Civic Centre by promoting higher-density residential uses in the Town Centre;
- d) Continue efforts to improve the overall environment of the Civic Centre through the use of signage, planting of trees, provision of street furniture, and other aesthetic and functional items that make to Civic Centre more desirable to pedestrians.



4.5.2 Schools

Pitt Meadows has four elementary schools and one secondary school within the municipal boundaries. Prior to the 2004/2005 school year, Meadowland Elementary was the fifth elementary school in the City. It has since closed and reopened as the Vancouver International School, an independent institution. Between 2001 and 2007, school enrolment has dropped in Pitt Meadows as the number of children in Pitt Meadows aged 0 – 14 years of age has dropped. Population projections show that this trend is expected to continue into the future. It is possible that Pitt Meadows could have an additional school closure.

- a) Maintain a close, collaborative relationship with the School Board to maximize the use of school facilities and services for the benefit of the community;
- b) Recognize and support the role of schools as neighbourhood focal points and social centres;
- c) Support strategies for housing and services to attract young adults and young families with children.